

East Germany

REPORT NO.

25X1

General Information on the Demonstrations in East Germany

25X1

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

25X1

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

15 July 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES

2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1

1. Between noon and 4 p.m. on 17 June 1953, a motor vehicle column, including about 80 T-34/85 tanks, about 220 trucks, about 20 armored scout cars, about 50 sidecar motorcycles, about 20 jeeps, about 12 to 15 tank trucks, 10 six-wheel armored personnel carriers, 2 or 3 ambulances, individual radio trucks and repair shop trucks; and about 3,000 to 4,000 troops, was seen en route from the direction of Krampnitz toward Drewitz. Between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m., 20 to 30 tanks and 30 to 40 vehicles were seen en route in the same direction. On 17 June, the workers of the Karl Marx Werk and the RAW went on strike; they resumed work on 18 June. At 4:30 p.m. on 17 June, martial law was declared in Potsdam. Numerous Soviet patrols were seen in the town area. No heavy weapons were employed. There were no demonstrations. On 18 June, the Kriegsschule was occupied by about 1,500 troops, which were employed in patrol duty in the town. They were equipped with trucks

25X1

25X1

25X1

The Adolf Hitler Kaserne was occupied by about 1,000 troops, which were also employed in patrol duty in the town area. They were equipped with trucks. The Delius Kaserne was occupied by about 300 troops.

25X1

25X1

25X1

2. Beginning on 17 June, only small demonstrations by workers took place in Plauen, which dispersed quickly. Neither Soviet troops nor VP interfered. Martial law was declared in Plauen on 17 June. Curfew was from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. on the following day. Soviet infantry posts, numbering 3 to 5 men, were at the railroad station, the post office, the bank and the market place. Beginning 18 June, an alert unit of about 100 to 120 troops and 10 trucks was stationed in the Koenig Georg Kaserne. Traffic between the barracks installations and the Kobitzwalde training area had decreased after 18 June. On 20 June, 2 AT guns towed by trucks left the installations for the firing range. The troops stationed in the installations did not march out. The main entrances of the Koenig Georg Kaserne and the Hindenburg Kaserne were open after 18 June, whereas they previously had

25X1

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/

SECRET/

- 2 -

25X1

been closed. They were guarded by double sentries. Sedan [] and trucks [] entered the installations.²

25X1

3. Between 18 and 22 June, the Garde-du-Corps Kaserne, Potsdam, was occupied by the administration school Potsdam. VP vehicles [] were in the garages. The Leibgarde Husaren Kaserne was occupied by about 400 VPs. Sedans [] were seen leaving the installation. The former NCO school appeared to be occupied as previously by a guard detail of the VP. The former Kriegsschule was occupied by about 600 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Trucks [] were seen leaving the installation.¹ Soviet soldiers and VP patrolled the streets and railroad crossings, bridges and municipal buildings were heavily guarded.

25X1

4. On 24 June, 8 armored personnel carriers and truck [] were at the Pankow-Schoenhausen railroad station, and 50 trucks occupied by troops and including [] were at the Ostkreuz railroad station. On 24 and 25 June, military posts in Berlin and the zone were relieved by police. Troops continued to be employed at the sector boundary.³

25X1

5. On 25 June, martial law was lifted in Luckenwalde.

1. [] Comment. The information confirms the known departure of elements of the 1st Mecz Div on 17 June and their direction of march to the south section of Berlin via Potsdam and Drewitz. [] The occupation of the barracks installations in Potsdam did not show any change over the situation before the demonstrations. []

25X1

2. [] Comment. [] units of the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div [] remained at their installations and thus had not to be called back from the Ohrdruf troop training grounds. []

25X1

3. [] Comment. Units of the 12th Gds Tank Div can be confirmed in the Pankow area as previously. On 24 June, two motor vehicles of the 14th Gds Mecz Div, for the first time, were observed at the Ostkreuz railroad station, which, so far, had been carried as belonging to the employment area of the 1st Mecz Div.

SECRET